

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012**

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Blunt, Martinez, M. McCarthy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: T. McCarthy

Council President McCarthy called the public hearing to order at 6:15 pm.

- 1.) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15.12 Housing Code, amend Section 15.12.250 Rental Conditions-Certificate of Apartment Occupancy. (13-11)

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor – there were none heard.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against.

- Helen Losak, 304 Bradley Street - stated that she was opposed to landlords charging \$80.00 for inspections. She noted that the fire department conducts inspections for free and she stressed that landlords already pay high property taxes. She repeated that they should let the fire department continue doing the inspections free of charge and give something back to the landlords.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2.) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 8.81 Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance. (67-11)

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor.

- Mary Jane Foster stated that this was year three that the ordinance has been considered to regulate strip joints. She said it was imperative that they pass the ordinance for the sake of public safety, health and the quality of life. She expressed that she hoped the city council would take the issue on and pass the ordinance. She commented that it was important to end the message to residents and business people that the city has some self-respect.
- Joe Ianniello stated that he was the president of the Black Rock NRZ. He said that he enthusiastically supports the ordinance. He recalled that the issue was brought up numerous times during the NRZ meetings and it was decided that they can't let illegal, inappropriate massage parlors and sexually oriented businesses turn into a detriment to the community. He urged the city council to pass the ordinance.
- Stephanie Barnes asked if the ordinance already passed in committee. Council President McCarthy responded that it did and a public hearing was required before the item went before the full city council.

Ms. Barnes went on to say that since the matter was brought forward, there were have been many in favor (*she noted that she had (140) signatures in favor of the ordinance*). She stated that there are businesses that aren't currently regulated and there are situations that occur in these places; so she wanted to make sure there are controls in place. She expressed that these types of businesses affect the welfare of surrounding areas. She commented that Bridgeport is on a path to becoming a better city and they need to make positive decisions for the city. She urged support of the ordinance and she mentioned that those that don't vote for it, may regret their decision down the road should they ever have to answer to their children and grandchildren. She felt history could be made by passing the ordinance.

- Helen Losak stated that she had (100) signatures in favor of the ordinance. She recalled the establishment Teddie's as remainder of how much trouble there was there. She stressed that by the city council voting yes to the ordinance, they will be able to stop illegal businesses in the city. She mentioned Michael Jackson's song "*The Man in the Mirror*" to make the point that the city council can make that change.
- Jennifer Buchanan, 159 Seabright Ave – stated that she was in favor of the ordinance due to the loose rules governing sexually oriented businesses. She

said she thought that many businesses currently take advantage of how loose the law is. She stressed that the issue pertains to the health and safety for the patrons and the employees of these establishments and they reflect poorly on a community; particularly when they're located in a residential area. She said that passing the ordinance will send the message to business people that the city has a standard to uphold.

- State Representative Auden Groggins, 129th District – stated that as a 25-year resident of the city; she was there to stand in support of passing the ordinance. She said the ordinance was crucial to the welfare of Bridgeport. She further clarified that the ordinance was targeted at illegitimate businesses and it will crack down on illegal activity; such as prostitution and the potential for sex trafficking. She expressed that the ordinance works hand in hand with the massage parlor statute that regulates illegal massage parlors. She said the regulations and permits required will bring illegal operations under scrutiny and promote positive economic development as well as protect the safety and welfare of the community. She said the key was to strive to make Bridgeport a better place to live and there should be a goal we're all working towards today. She urged support of the ordinance.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against, there were none heard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 3.) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.08 Street, Sidewalk and Driveway Construction and Maintenance, amend Section 12.08.030 Restrictions as to Driveways. (129-11)

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor – there were none heard.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against – there were none heard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 4.) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 2.123 Bridgeport Food Policy Council. (140-11)

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor.

- Marilyn Moore thanked Council members Blunt and Paoletto for being involved in the creation of the Food Policy Council. She said it was found that the creation of the policy will provide good healthy nutrition to communities. She stated that providing healthy food promotes good nutrition and it's the right thing to do for children and it will benefit the entire city. She mentioned that the policy was supported by numerous local organizations. She urged support of the ordinance.
- Kristin Dubay-Horton, Director of Health & Social Services stated that she was there more to speak as a resident of Bridgeport. She mentioned that she had letters from Bridgeport Hospital and the Get Healthy Coalition in support of the policy. She emphasized that there were a group of collaborators that were working towards addressing obesity in the city and the ordinance will help accomplish that.
- John Marshall Lee stated that he was involved with a local food pantry. He said that he read the Food Policy Council goals that he found would deal with many factors pertaining to nutrition. He relayed that he has alerted other programs; such as Operation Hunger and Brian Rosedale about the policy and he urged them to get involved to come together to discuss various issues regarding food in the city.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against – there were none heard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5.) Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add new Chapter 3.60 Disability Pension Benefits Police and Fire. (143-11)

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak in favor – there were none heard.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone to speak against – there were none heard.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY MOVED TO CLOSE THE ENTIRE PUBLIC HEARING**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearing closed at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services